

REMARKS

Claims 5-9 are pending in the application. Claim 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on International Publication No. WO 02/14593 to Arcelik.

The pending claims have not been amended. New claim 10 has now been added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on International Publication No. WO 02/14593 to Arcelik.

Arcelik describes a washing machine with a control and indicator panel 2 in the door 1. The door has a window 7 with a frame 8 disposed around it. The frame 8 has a frame surface 11 above it and a frame body 12 below it. See Arcelik, page 3, line 26 to page 4, line 5 and Fig. 9. The frame surface 11 is transparent so that the control and indicator panel 2, and specifically the light indicators 15 thereof, can be seen from outside the loading door 1. See Arcelik, page 5, lines 7-10 and Fig. 9.

Independent claim 5 of the present application recites "a housing including a stamped section recessed relative to a front of the housing and circumferentially surrounding a loading opening to a rotatably mounted drum of the appliance." It is respectfully submitted that Arcelik does not disclose this feature. In contrast, Arcelik merely describes a washing machine with a front wall 9 and a loading door 1 attached to the front wall 9. See Arcelik, page 4, lines 5-10. In fact, Fig. 2 of Arcelik shows that the front wall 9 of the washing machine has a raised portion where the loading door 1 is attached. With respect to frame body 12 of Arcelik, it is respectfully submitted that this feature of Arcelik is part of the loading door 1 and holds the window 7 in place. Contrary

to the assertion in the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that frame body 12 of Arcelik is not a stamped section of the housing. See Detailed Action at page 2, section 4.

Further, independent claim 5 of the present invention also recites a door and “an edge of the door and a surrounding edge of the stamped section forming a gap area therebetween when the door is in a closed position.” It is respectfully submitted that Arcelik does not disclose a gap formed between an edge of the loading door 1 and a stamped section of the washing machine housing. As stated above, Arcelik does not disclose that the housing of the washing machine has a stamped section. Thus, Arcelik necessarily cannot disclose a gap formed between an edge of the door and an edge of the stamped section of the housing, as recited in claim 5.

Moreover, independent claim 5 of the present invention also recites “an illumination device disposed in the stamped section so as to be concealed behind the door when the door is in the closed position.” It is respectfully submitted that Arcelik also lacks this feature. Arcelik describes a control and indicator panel 2 that includes light indicators 15. However, the control and indicator panel is disposed within the loading door 1 itself and is not disposed in stamped section so as to be concealed behind the door, as recited in claim 5. In fact, Arcelik specifically sets forth that the frame surface 11 of the door is transparent so that the control and indicator panel 2 can be seen from outside the loading door. See Arcelik, page 5, lines 7-10 and Fig. 9. Thus, the control and indicator panel 2 is not concealed when the door is closed, as required by claim 5.

Because Arcelik lacks each of the above recited features of independent claim 5, it cannot anticipate claim 5 or its dependent claims 6-9. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claim 10

New claim 10 recites “a light source disposed in an area of a hinge of the door; and an optical waveguide disposed circumferentially about the loading opening, the optical waveguide having input surfaces in light-conductive connection with the light source and output surfaces circumferentially disposed around the opening.” Support for claim 10 may be found in the Specification, for example, at paragraph [0016]. New claim 10 depends from claim 5 and is patentable for at least the same reason as claim 5. Further, Arcelik does not describe an optical waveguide circumferentially

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surrounding the loading opening, as recited in new claim 10. It is respectfully submitted that new claim 10 is patentable over Arcelik for this additional reason.

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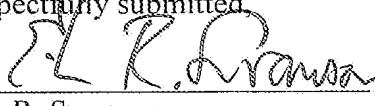
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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted

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